

Interview of
HON. ALLEN W. DULLES, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
by REP. KENNETH B. KEATING (R., N.Y.)
on Program "LET'S LOOK AT CONGRESS"
over Station WHAM-TV, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
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KEATING: Ladies and gentlemen welcome again to "Let's Look at Congress". Today I have a distinguished and rather novel guest to introduce to you. He's neither a Member of Congress nor is he a member of the President's Cabinet as so many of our guests have been in the past. Nevertheless, he holds a unique and extremely important position in our government and because of the nature of this position, it's very difficult for him to say as much as many people would like to hear. He has had a fascinating background and would have a most interesting story if he could tell everything. Today is his first television appearance on a program of this kind.

He was born in Watertown, New York, has lived in Auburn, New York, and has many roots in upstate New York. He has had an outstanding career as a lawyer and Foreign Service officer, was a member of the American Commission to the Paris Peace Conference in 1918 and 1919 and in World War II was active in what was known as the Office of Strategic Services, O.S.S. He received several decorations for the meritorious work which he did and was instrumental in effecting the surrender of the German forces in Italy. I could go on almost indefinitely telling you, ladies and gentlemen, about this distinguished

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public servant. His brother is the Secretary of State. I'm delighted and highly honored to be able to present to you Mr. Allen Dulles, the Director of Central Intelligence Agency, the C.I.A. Allen, it's a great pleasure to have you here on this program and I know you're going to have some interesting things to tell us.

DULLES: Ken, it's a great pleasure to be here. As you say, I'm not a part of Congress but Congress is pretty important as far as I'm concerned. If they don't give me enough money to work with, you know, I wouldn't go very far.

KEATING: Well one of the things about the Central Intelligence Agency is that because of the nature of its work, Congress doesn't ask too many questions when you do come before Congress for your funds. Isn't that right?

DULLES: No, but I give Congress a general idea of where the money goes because I think the people are entitled to, the Congress, the people's representatives, are entitled to know that.

You mention northern New York. I'm a Watertown boy you know and I was brought up in Auburn. And speaking of money, you know John Taber is my Congressman from Auburn. And John doesn't give me any privileges because I come from Auburn. But he's very fair.

KEATING: I'm sure of that and, while we are on the subject of upstate New York, in the original formation of the Central Intelligence Agency which, of course, had to be done by appropriate enabling legislation, I believe another western New Yorker was instrumental, wasn't he?

DULLES: You're right yes. Senator Jimmy Wadsworth was then in the House of Representatives and was one of the authors of the Act creating the Central Intelligence Agency. That, you know well, was a part of the Act that set up the unified Armed Services and there's one section of that Act that created the Central Intelligence Agency.

KEATING: Tell us in a few words how that arose, how the CIA was originally created and how it operates.

DULLES: I just wanted to add on the other point that Jimmy Wadsworth did a perfectly extraordinary job, a thoughtful job, a job that was so good, together with his colleagues, that I have not been able to ask for any important amendments to the Act-- haven't wanted to because it was adequate for our purposes.

KEATING: Well, that's typical of the kind of work that Jim Wadsworth always did, I think.

DULLES: Well, you asked a little bit about the Agency. I think in a way the Agency started as a result of Pearl Harbour. Then we were caught pretty well napping. One can argue about pros and cons and individual responsibility but the facts of the matter were, that we had intelligence available then and it wasn't gotten to the appropriate members of the government at the proper time for them to act.

Now as a result of that you remember Wild Bill Donovan, also a New Yorker, was brought in to organize the Office of Strategic Services. He did a grand job during the war on that. Then as an outgrowth of that, the CIA was formed in '47.

and in forming that they had in mind that it was important to set up machinery which would pool the various bits of intelligence that come into the government from all over in one place and then see that it was assembled to the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and see that it got to these officials and others and the Joint Chiefs of Staff properly so that the right action could be taken.

KEATING: Now, how does it differ from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service for instance, which are also arms of our intelligence at the Federal level.

DULLES: Well, it differs in this way and I think that the difference is a very wise one that Congress imposed. I haven't any police powers. I can't go out and arrest anybody. I can't make any investigations in the United States except relating to my own personnel. I operate on foreign intelligence affecting the security of the United States and J. Edgar Hoover is doing a fine job in the domestic field and, of course, the Secret Service in its particular area under the Treasury and so on.

KEATING: Now during the war, you were decorated with the Medal of Merit and the Medal of Freedom for the distinguished work which you did and we had in 1946 a very effective intelligence organization. Is our intelligence operation as good now as it was then?

DULLES: Well, that's a hard question to answer with a yes or no. I would say this, that the Soviets, sitting behind the Iron Curtain have been able to put up barriers that make it almost more

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difficult today to get intelligence from the Soviet Union than it was during the war to get intelligence on Germany. Of course, during the time of war all inhibitions are off and you go hell-bent to get any intelligence you can. You have to be a little more discreet, a little more careful in times of peace.

KEATING: How does our Intelligence Agency, the CIA for instance, compare with the intelligence activities of other countries, including Russia?

DULLES: I think we're doing pretty well. We're younger, we're newer but I wouldn't say that we're second to any of the intelligence agencies of the Free World. The Soviets probably spend a good deal more money on their intelligence. They have probably a larger world-wide network than any other intelligence service because they join intelligence with subversive activity and all these other activities.

KEATING: How would you rate the Russian intelligence as such? Are they good?

DULLES: I think they're good in collecting, I'm not awful sure they're good in analyzing. I don't think the people who analyze the intelligence they get know these other countries well enough. So few of them have been, say to the United States, that are in high places that deal with intelligence so I would say that the collection is good and analysis is probably not so good.

KEATING: Does our free press and our open way of life handicap our intelligence efforts in any way?

DULLES: Well, it does to some extent. Of course, the members of the press quite naturally, are prying around trying to find out what I'm doing. It's up to me more or less to try to protect myself. But that's a sacrifice we have to take because I'd rather have all the freedoms that we have even though it may mean that an occasional indiscretion is made.

KEATING: Moscow and Peiping are always saying that you're infiltrating agents over there. What about that?

DULLES: Well, I believe they'll go ahead and say it. I'm not going to confirm or deny that. I sometimes think they exaggerate a little bit but I'll let them say what they want on that score.

KEATING: What's all this talk, how do you assess all this talk about Soviet relaxation of tensions and this Geneva smiling policy, what's your slant on that?

DULLES: Well, looking at the hard evidence that we have, I don't see that we have any real reason to believe that certainly in the covert field and the field of subversion, there's been any relaxation whatsoever. Now it's up to the Secretary of State and others to judge the broad political field but/I look at it, the question is are they stopping any of their subversive activities in IndoChina, in Indonesia and the various parts of the world where they're particularly trying to operate and in parts of Europe? No, I don't think they are. I don't see any change whatever.

HEATING: In other words, so far as you have been able to assess it from your world-wide intelligence sources, there isn't any difference in the way they are operating now from what it was before they started this smiling?

ULLES: Not a bit.

HEATING: Tell me about the CIA itself, who checks on it? You're a secret intelligence outfit and what check is there on your activities? Or shouldn't there be any?

ULLES: Oh yes there should be. But the checks have to be tempered by the nature of the activities that I'm engaged in. Now first of all, I'm organized under the Office of the President and the National Security Council and I report to them at regular intervals about the general nature of my activities. Then there are budgetary checks, I submit my budget and I go over the broad headings of what I'm doing in my budget when I come before the committees. There's a select group of the Appropriations Committee and the Armed Services Committee that work on my activities and then quite recently Senator Russell and Senator Saltonstall have organized a small group of their Armed Services Committee and they come up and talk with me and I go down and meet with them and in that way there's a check and I think there ought to be a check.

HEATING: There's been a proposal made for a Joint Congressional Committee to check on your activities. Have you ever given much thought to that, or what do you think of it?

ULLES: I've given quite a good deal of thought and that also was one of the recommendations of the Hoover Commission on the

reorganization of government. It presents a bit of a problem but I believe that is for the Congress to decide. If the Congress feels that is the best way to control my activities properly, I'm perfectly willing to go along with that. I'm perfectly satisfied now with the consideration I get from the Armed Services Committee, which is the Committee to which I am responsible.

KEATINGE: Well, I want to end this program by complimenting you on what PRAVDA, the Russian paper wrote about you. They said, "Even if the spy, Allen Dulles, should arrive in Heaven through somebody's absentmindedness, he'd begin to blow up the clouds, mine the stars and slaughter the angels". Now I consider that a high compliment.

DULLES: Well, Ilya Erenberg, who wrote that, is one of their best writers so I'll accept it as such.

KEATINGE: Ladies and gentlemen, it's been a great pleasure to have on this program today Mr. Allen Dulles, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.